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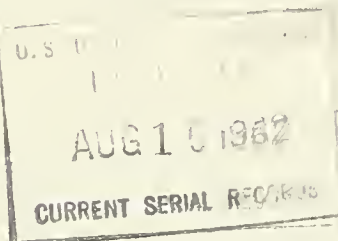


# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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## WORLD MOHAIR PRODUCTION

### CONTINUES TO RISE

#### SUMMARY

World mohair<sup>1/</sup> production in 1961 continued to rise at the same rapid pace of the past 3 years, spurred by strong demand in consuming countries and continued favorable world market prices.

The outlook for 1962 is for further increases in each of the 3 major producing countries as goat numbers appear to be on the increase, particularly in the United States and the Republic of South Africa.

MOHAIR: Production in specified countries, greasy basis,  
1951-55 average, annual 1956 to 1961

Year <sup>1/</sup>	: United : States	: Turkey	: Rep. of : So. Africa	: Basutoland	: Total
	----- <u>Million pounds</u> -----				
1951-55	: 13.9	16.4	5.0	1.2	36.5
1956	: 18.2	19.4	5.4	1.1	44.1
1957	: 19.1	18.2	5.6	1.1	44.0
1958	: 20.8	17.2	6.0	1.2	45.2
1959	: 23.3	18.7	8.0	1.2	51.2
1960	: 24.5	19.1	8.7	1.2	53.5
1961	: 26.4	<u>2/19.6</u>	<u>2/10.0</u>	<u>2/1.2</u>	<u>2/57.2</u>

<sup>1/</sup> In the United States, year beginning April 1; Republic of South Africa, year beginning July 1. <sup>2/</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>1/</sup> Mohair is the fleece of the Angora goat of the Turkish plateau, South African Cape, and the southwestern United States. Production in other areas of the world is insignificant and is not included in this circular.

## PRODUCTION

United States. In 1957 the United States displaced Turkey as the world's leading mohair producer and exporter. Since then, U.S. production has risen more than 25 percent to record levels.

Texas produces about 97 percent of U.S. mohair with the remainder coming largely from Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon, Utah, and Missouri.

World production of mohair will remain small in relation to total fiber output, although production is likely to rise for the next several years.

Uses for mohair have changed considerably in the last 30 years. In the 1920's and 1930's it was in great demand for use in automobile upholstery, portieres, rugs, robes, braids, artificial furs, upholstery for fine furniture, and men's summer clothing. Introduction of automobile seat covers, and the greater use of vinyl plastics and acrylic fibers in place of natural fibers in auto upholstery considerably reduced an important outlet for mohair in the United States.

Mohair is currently in greatest demand as an apparel fiber. Its most popular uses are in woolen and worsted clothing fabrics, and in knitting yarns, and it is used to some extent in pile fabrics for upholstery. The demand for mohair in apparel fabrics is influenced greatly by fashion. In the last several years there has been a tendency to lustrous cloth, and more recently to fabrics with a 3-dimensional effect. Mohair is especially well adapted to lend these effects when blended with wool and man-made fibers.

Future demand will depend largely upon foreign economic prosperity, and fashion trends; also upon price, as man-made fibers can be substituted in apparel fabric to achieve similar results. Market promotion efforts are now directed more toward developing uses for mohair that are less affected by the vagaries of fashion.

U.S. production in 1962 is expected to increase again, because of the 4 percent increase in numbers of goats on Texas farms and ranches as of January 1, 1962.

Turkey. Production is variously estimated at somewhere between 15 million and 20 million pounds by government and trade sources. The most reliable estimates place 1961 production at 19.6 million pounds, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  percent above the previous year.

Official estimates show just under 6.0 million head of Angora goats in Turkey in 1961, up about 6 percent in the last 2 years. Yields in Turkey remain about half of the U.S. average because of weather conditions and frequent feed shortages. Average yield in 1961 was 3.3 pounds per goat compared with 6.6 pounds in the United States.



Production will probably rise slightly in 1962 because of the expected increase in goat numbers in central Anatolia, the area of greatest concentration.

South Africa. Production continued to expand in South Africa in 1961, with further increase predicted for 1962 and for several years thereafter. Higher world prices have revived an interest in mohair in recent years. Over the past 20 years production remained fairly stable and rose only slightly. In the 1910 to 1920 period South Africa was the world's leading producer with about 20 million pounds clipped annually.

Currently, growers have been carrying out flock improvement programs. There has been increased research financed largely by a levy on production. There has also been greater emphasis on studies of foreign markets, consumer demand, production and costs and manufacturing. A price stabilization scheme similar to the program now in effect for wool has been discussed.

There is little demand for mohair in South Africa. Practically all of each clip is sold at auction for export. Thus, due to the nature of the demand for South African mohair, some leaders in the industry are urging caution with respect to too rapid expansion.

Production in Basutoland has remained fairly constant over the years and has expanded only slightly in comparison to the increases elsewhere in the world. Production of Basutohair is not expected to show much change in the coming year.

MOHAIR: Exports from specified countries, actual weight,  
1951-55 average, annual 1956 to 1961

Year	: United : States <u>1/</u> :	Turkey	: Rep. of : South Africa <u>2/</u> :	Total
	----- <u>Million pounds</u> -----			
1951-55 ave.	: <u>3/</u> 1.9	7.5	5.3	14.7
1956	: 11.8	8.5	6.4	26.7
1957	: 10.0	7.2	6.5	23.7
1958	: 13.2	7.4	7.4	28.0
1959	: 18.6	18.6	8.5	45.7
1960	: 13.5	10.5	8.9	32.9
1961	: 13.5	13.1	10.1	36.7

1/ Clean content calculated as about 4/5 greasy weight. 2/ Includes Basutoland. 3/ Less than 0.5 million prior to 1953.

## EXPORTS

United States. Exports of mohair rose from less than 0.5 million pounds in 1953 to 18.5 million in 1959. In 1960 and 1961 shipments declined to 13.5 million pounds.

MOHAIR 1/: U.S. exports by country of destination, clean basis, 1957 to 1961

Country of destination	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	----- 1,000 pounds -----				
United Kingdom.....	6,017	8,120	10,431	8,811	7,246
Japan.....	402	263	811	622	2,088
Netherlands.....	1,804	3,046	4,407	1,670	1,765
Belgium.....	1,432	854	1,148	836	1,167
Italy.....	9	37	657	455	379
Canada.....	57	249	193	404	323
West Germany.....	94	369	627	293	138
Others.....	177	272	287	420	417
Total.....	9,992	13,210	18,561	13,511	13,523
Percent of production.....	65	80	99	69	64

1/ Including other wool-like specialty hair.

Between 1957 and 1961 exports have averaged 75 percent of production. There are no government export programs for mohair, all sales being for dollars. Foreign demand has been largely responsible for the high prices in recent years.

The United Kingdom has been the best customer for U.S. mohair, taking between 55 and 65 percent of total exports ever since the United States became a net exporter. European Common Market countries have also been important markets. These 6 countries have taken between one-fourth and one-third of total exports in the last 5 years. Exports to Japan exceeded 2 million pounds in 1961, 3 times the amount purchased in 1960.

Exports reached a peak of 18.6 million pounds in 1959. For the last 2 years, however, foreign demand has slackened and U.S. exports have dropped to about 13.5 million pounds. Prospects for 1962 are for increased supplies available for export at lower prices than have prevailed in recent years. Both exports and domestic prices declined sharply in the early months of 1962. At the end of April exports were about one-third below a year earlier, with average prices received by growers down about 30 percent.

Turkey. Exports set a record of 18.6 million pounds in 1959, after having remained between 7 million and 9 million pounds for most of a decade, but have declined sharply since 1959. They still are above average, however.

The United Kingdom is by far the leading buyer of Turkish mohair, having taken 60 percent to 70 percent of all exports in recent years. In 1956 the United Kingdom purchased 93 percent of the 8.5 million pounds exported. Exports will probably rise slightly for the next year or two as goat numbers continue to rise.

TURKEY: Exports of mohair by country of destination, actual weight,  
1957 to 1961

Country	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	----- 1,000 pounds -----				
United Kingdom.....	1,845	4,702	13,159	6,314	8,395
France.....	671	359	1,034	791	1,391
Czechoslovakia.....	1/	121	99	533	661
Spain.....	326	342	800	291	648
Israel.....	498	1/	26	42	441
Poland.....	1/	1/	1/	604	326
Italy.....	98	152	1,144	276	256
Hungary.....	1/	174	650	596	234
West Germany.....	1,530	828	60	148	126
Yugoslavia.....	692	1/	705	220	79
Others.....	2/1,533	711	928	391	556
Total.....	7,191	7,390	18,605	10,206	13,113

1/ If any, included with other. 2/ Includes Switzerland (1,348).

South Africa. Exports of mohair from the Republic of South Africa have increased each year since 1953 when about 5 million pounds were shipped. The United Kingdom is the largest buyer, normally taking more than half of all exports.

Practically all of South African and Basutoland production is exported. As production has risen each year, exports have kept pace. Production in 1961 was estimated at about 10 million pounds, and exports reached 10.1 million. Goat numbers continued to expand during 1961 indicating larger supplies of mohair for export in 1962.



REP. OF SOUTH AFRICA 1/: Exports of mohair from South African ports, actual weight, by country of destination, 1957 to 1961

Country	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	----- 1,000 pounds -----				
United Kingdom.....	3,741	3,538	4,628	4,653	4,802
Japan.....	642	1,839	1,332	1,317	1,785
Italy.....	752	1,304	1,172	1,103	1,263
France.....	695	337	340	693	816
Netherlands.....	338	131	156	309	374
West Germany.....	95	39	49	221	293
Belgium.....	157	85	78	153	263
Others.....	102	129	719	460	489
Total.....	6,522	7,402	8,474	8,909	10,100

1/ Includes Basutoland.

### IMPORTS

Because mohair represents such a relatively small fraction of total textile fibers entering world trade, most importing countries do not maintain separate statistics. Thus the most complete data on trade come from the producing and exporting countries. In most countries mohair is imported by the normal wool trade in various forms: raw, scoured, tops, and in some cases yarn from manufacturers in other importing countries.

United Kingdom. Within the last 10 years the United Kingdom has replaced the United States as the leading importer and consumer of mohair. During the period 1951-55 gross imports averaged about 10 million pounds, increased to 19 million in 1956-58, and hit a peak at over 33 million pounds in 1959. The following year imports dropped sharply to 21 million pounds but recovered partially in 1961 when 26 million pounds were imported.

UNITED KINGDOM: Imports of mohair, actual weight, 1957 to 1961

1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
18,873	18,598	33,288	21,423	25,941

About 14 to 16 million pounds have been consumed annually in the United Kingdom over the last 3 years. Additional quantities are used in top making for export (nearly 9 million pounds in 1959, 5.5 million in 1960 and 6.6 million in 1961). Another 2 million pounds per year is spun into woollen and worsted yarn for export.



Japanese imports of mohair fluctuated widely in the 3-year period, 1959-61. The sharp reduction in 1960 and subsequent rise in 1961 largely reflect fashion changes. More than half of the mohair used in Japan goes into women's coats and about one-fifth is used in men's suits. Imports in 1962 are expected to remain at about the same level as 1961.

A large amount of the mohair imported comes from non-producing countries, mostly in the form of tops. The United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium and West Germany are all importing countries with no production of their own. Much of Japanese purchases from these sources probably is comprised of U.S. mohair.

JAPAN: Mohair imports, by country of origin, 1959 to 1961

Country of origin	1959	1960	1961
	----- <u>1,000 pounds</u> -----		
United States.....	957	617	2,760
Republic of South Africa....	1,184	1,257	1,947
United Kingdom.....	2,454	430	1,188
Belgium.....	262	20	977
Netherlands.....	714	161	281
Turkey.....	20	20	11
West Germany.....	37	0	4
Argentina.....	79	---	---
Total.....	5,707	2,505	7,168

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